

REMARKS-General

1. The newly drafted independent claim 25 incorporates all structural limitations of the original claim 1 and includes further limitations previously brought forth in the disclosure. No new matter has been included. All new claims 25-34 are submitted to be of sufficient clarity and detail to enable a person of average skill in the art to make and use the instant invention, so as to be pursuant to 35 USC 112.

Response to Rejection of Claims 21-24 under 35USC112

2. The rejected claims 21-24 are deleted in this application. The applicant submits that the newly drafted claims 25-34 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the instant invention, as pursuant to 35USC112.

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Regarding to Rejection of Claims 1-24 under 35USC102

3. The Examiner rejects claims 1-13 as being anticipated by Hight, Jr. et al (US 6,893,025) and claims 14-24 as being anticipated by Weil (US5,066,028).

4. The original claims 1-24 have been deleted in this application and the newly drafted claims 25 to 34 are allowable in view of the cited art, Hight, Jr. et al because Hight, Jr. et al patent and the instant invention are **not the same invention** according to the fact that the independent claim 25 of the instant invention does not read upon the Hight, Jr. et al patent.

5. Hight, Jr. et al fails to anticipate the distinctive features of the instant invention as follows:

(a) In claim 25, "each fastener has a first end portion bent to form a single spiral retention base and a second portion bent to form an engagement head" is claimed by a stiff metal wire spring, wherein Hight, Jr. et al merely teaches a clip comprising a head 14 having an apex and a base 12 comprising a multiplicity of coils courses without any mention of any single spiral base. The applicant respectfully submits the retention

base of each fastener of the instant invention is formed by bending the second portion of the wire spring into a single spiral shape as shown in Figure 4 such that the fastener is adapted to securely and easily attach to the sealing member by a single twisting movement. However, the clip of Hight, Jr. et al merely requires more than two continuously twisting movements to attach the clip at the gasket 18. In addition, even Hight, Jr. et al teaches the base is comprised of a single coil in Fig. 9C, the clip of Hight, Jr. et al cannot be securely held in position. It is worth to mention that if the clip is easily attached to the gasket, the clip may easily detached from the gasket as well. Therefore, the clip must have a unique structure to allow simple attachment of the clip and to secure the clip at the gasket.

(b) In claim 25, "a curved narrow neck portion is formed between the first and second end portions of the fastener" is claimed to retain the fastener at the sealing member, wherein Hight, Jr. et al merely teaches the clip has an angled neck 20 without any mention of any curved neck portion to retain the fastener at the sealing member. Accordingly, Hight, Jr. et al merely teaches, in Fig. 1, the wire is twisted to form the head and the base that the angled neck 20 is a turning point separating between the head 14 and the base 12. As shown in Figs. 2 and 5 of Hight, Jr. et al, when the clip is mounted to the gasket 18, the woven sheath 18a and the wire core 18b of the gasket 18 are positioned above the base 12 at the bottom portion of the head 14. The applicant respectfully submits the neck portion of each of the fasteners is a portion of the wire spring but not the section-dividing point thereof. The neck portion of the fastener (the unique structure of the instant invention) has a predetermined length, as shown in Fig. 4, that the heat sealing layer and the supporting frame of the instant invention are positioned within the curved neck portion of the fastener. In other words, the heat sealing layer and the supporting frame are positioned below the engagement head and are positioned above the retention base. As it is mentioned above, the fastener can be securely retained in position because of the neck portion of the fastener. Even though Hight, Jr. et al merely mentions, in column 4, lines 4-5, the neck 20 helps hold the clip in place, the base 12 must have multiplicity of coils courses. In fact, a mere recitation of the single coil base in Hight, Jr. et al does not anticipate or suggest any curved neck portion of the fastener to retain the fastener in position. Therefore, the fastener can securely and easily attach to the sealing member via the single coil retention base through the neck portion.

(c) Hight, Jr. et al does not anticipate or suggest the neck portion of each of the fasteners has a height corresponding to a thickness of the sealing member so as to hold the supporting frame and the heat sealing layer between the engagement head and the retention base in position as claimed in claim 26. As it is mentioned above and disclosed in Fig. 4, the neck portion of the fastener is a portion of the wire spring formed between the diamond shaped engagement head and the single coil retention base.

(d) Hight, Jr. et al does not anticipate or suggest the retention base of each of the fasteners has a flat surface arranged to flatten a portion of the sealing member while the sealing member is retained at the neck portion of the respective fastener as claimed in claim 27. Hight, Jr. et al merely teaches the base has a flat surface without any suggestion of how to retain the gasket at the neck of the clip.

(e) Hight, Jr. et al does not anticipate or suggest the guiding split at the sealing member for the retention base of the fastener twisting into the deformable channel as claimed in claims 28 to 29. Hight, Jr. et al does not contain any guiding split at the gasket.

(f) Hight, Jr. et al does not anticipate or suggest the guiding split is formed at the heat sealing layer as claimed in claims 30 to 31. The applicant respectfully submits the retention base of the fastener of the instant invention is slidably passed through the guiding split into the deformable channel through the supporting frame. Hight, Jr. et al is silent about such structure.

(g) Hight, Jr. et al fails to anticipate or suggest the pigment layer coated on an outer circumferential side of the heat sealing member as claimed in claims 31 to 32.

(h) Hight, Jr. et al fails to anticipate or suggest the supporting frame comprises at least a heat treated stainless steel yarn crocheted to form a tubular structure, and said heat sealing layer is made of fiber glass yarns interwoven to enclose the supporting frame as claimed in claims 33 and 34. The applicant respectfully submits the supporting frame is made of heat treated stainless steel to enhance the heat resistance ability of the supporting frame.

6. Accordingly, Hight, Jr. et al fails to anticipate the above distinctive features (a) to (h) of the instant invention. Applicant believes that for all of the foregoing reasons, all of the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

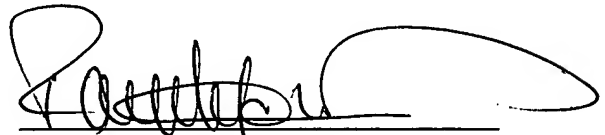
The Cited but Non-Applied References

7. The cited but not relied upon references have been studied and are greatly appreciated, but are deemed to be less relevant than the relied upon references.

8. In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested. Allowance of claims 25-34 at an early date is solicited.

9. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed in order to place the application in condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

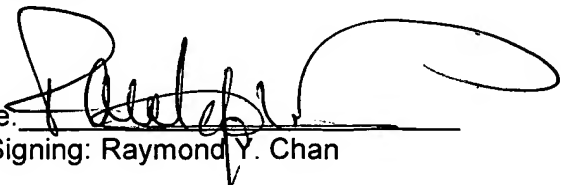


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